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ACTION NEA-11
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBAESY PARIS
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, SOPN, IS, IZ, LE
SUBJECT: ISRAELI RAID ON IRAQ: CLAIMS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT
REF: BEIRUT 3829 (NOTAL)

1. THE INDEPENDENT AND RIGHTIST PRESS IS CONTINUING RELATIVELY NON-POLEMIC COVERAGE OF THIS ISRAELI AIR STRIKE ON IRAQ'S NUCIEAR REACTOR. MOST JUNE 11 FRONT PAGE ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT (WHICH SHARED SPACE WITH REPORTS ON AMBASSADOR HABIB'S VISIT) ARE PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON THE U.S.

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SUSPENSION OF F-16 DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL.

2. THE LEBANESE LEFT AND THE PALESTINIANS, HOWEVER, ARE STEPPING UP THE INTENSITY OF THEIR PUBLIC ATTACKS. THE JUNE 11 EDITION OF AS-SAFIR IS HEADLINED "THE AWACS IN SAUDI ARABIA PARTICIPATED IN THE RAID ON BAGHDAD," AND THE PAPER CITING "EAST EUROPEAN AND ARAB DIPLOMATIC SOURCES," CHARGES THAT U.S.- MANNED AWACS CHARTED THE ROUTE USED BY THE ISRAELI AIRCRAFT AND PROVIDED AIR COVER OVER SAUDI ARABIA. AS-SAFIR ALSO CLAIMS THAT, ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCES, "A CIA NETWORK IN IRAQ PLAYED A ROLE IN COOPERATION WITH SOMMAD IN GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THE IRAQI MISSILE SYSTEM PROTECTING THE REACTOR, INCLUDING THEIR DEGREE OF READINESS, IN ADDITION TO GATHERING PRECISE INFORMATION ABOUT THE REACTOR ITSELF. THE SOURCES POINT OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS WHO VISITED IRAQ DURING

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82
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RECENT MONTHS, EITHER UNDER THE PRETEXT OF TOURISM OR OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, IS SEVERAL TIMES GREATER THAN IN THE PAST...THE SOURCES EXPRESSED THEIR BELIEF THAT ISRAELI AND AMERICAN ATTENTION WILL NOW BEGIN TO TURN TOWARDS LIBYA BECAUSE THERE IS INFORMATION INDICATING THE EXISTENCE OF STRATEGIC TARGETS IN LIBYA."

3. DURING A GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS IN BEIRUT YESTERDAY, PLO LEADER YASIR ARAFAT WAS QUOTED AS CLAIMING THAT THE ISRAELI RAID HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT "WITH FULL ASSISTANCE FROM AMERICAN SATELLITES AND RADAR," AND THAT THE RAID "TOOK PLACE WITH THE OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE PENTAGON AND WAS PLANNED BY THE ISRAELI AND AMERICAN MILITARY."

DEAN

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